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HANDS OFF COSATU !

Government and vigilante attacks against the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) continue at extremely-high levels following the bombing of COSATU headquarters in May, the arrest of hundreds of COSATU officers in recent months, the murder of at least 10 COSATU officers by vigilantes associated with the pro-Government United Workers' "Union" of South Africa (UWUSA), a Government smear campaign against the union, and the suppression of union literature.

Two editions of *COSATU News* (the union's monthly newspaper), 100,000 copies of COSATU's program for 1987, and thousands of leaflets promoting the union's Living Wage Campaign have been banned and seized by police. In East London, Johannesburg, Kroonstad, and Nelspruit, union offices have been vandalized, attacked by arsonists, or closed down by police. The Witbank offices of the National Union of Mineworkers, Metal and Allied Workers' Union, and Commercial, Catering, and Allied Workers' Union have all been raided by police. Two Transport and General Workers' Union officials instrumental in co-ordinating driver support for the May stayaway are in intensive care after being assaulted by UWUSA vigilantes. Another T&G organizer, Josiah Tire, was found handcuffed to the security gate of COSATU House, lying in broken glass, after being assaulted by police. John Lewis, British-born editor of the highly-respected *South African Labour Bulletin*, has been ordered to leave South Africa.

In response to these attacks, COSATU launched a "Hands Off COSATU" campaign May 27th, demanding the right to organize freely, to meet and speak, and to "campaign for a stake in a future, unitary, non-racial South Africa" and an end to harassment and intimidation. "We are totally opposed to the present regime," noted COSATU General Secretary Jay Naidoo in launching the campaign. "We do not apologize for this."

FIGHTING FOR A LIVING WAGE

Despite Government repression, COSATU continues to organize and fight. The union now includes more than 700,000 workers, and is making substantial progress in its efforts to re-organize its affiliates on an industrial basis. In May, the 130,000-member National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA) was founded through a merger of the three COSATU affiliates active in this industry. NUMSA's general secretary, Moses Mayekiso, is currently facing charges of treason and a possible death sentence. US-based Otis Elevators has fired workers who struck demanding Mayekiso's release.

In March, COSATU announced that the re-organization of its affiliates into 12 industrial unions was to be completed by July. But the intensified Government repression seems to have delayed these efforts to some extent. An editorial in the March *COSATU News* notes that "national industrial power [is needed] to fight the monopolies that dominate the whole country and every industry.... By forming one union in each industry we will gain massive strength and unity."

Last year saw a record number of strikes, overtime bans, and slowdowns. But a recent report indicates that 1987 may set a new record. In the first two months of this year, "Wage-related strikes by COSATU members... have already cost the economy close to 750,000 man-days", a figure that does not include politically-motivated strikes (stayaways). And many of these strikes are being won.

In late March, COSATU launched a Living Wage Campaign demanding a living wage for all; a 40-hour workweek with no loss in pay; the establishment of May Day, June 16th, and Sharpeville Day as paid holidays; job security; no tax deductions; six months' paid maternity leave; an end to the hostel system; decent housing near places of work; and the right to decent education and training.

Unemployment in South Africa has reached an all-time high, with the latest (unofficial) figures showing that about 55% of those who could work are without jobs. Inflation is also at an all-time high. In 1986 the cost of living went up by nearly 19%—the sharpest increase since the 1920s. Projections indicate that the 1987 rate will be even sharper. As a result, real wages have



fallen each year for the last five years. Last year the average wage rose by only 11%, well below the 18.7% inflation. Despite continuing population growth, recent Government figures indicate that total food consumption in South Africa is falling. As COSATU notes: "The only way this can be explained is that people are eating less food each year to offset the rise in the cost of living." And hundreds of thousands of workers are being laid off as companies shut down or reduce production in response to South Africa's deepening economic crisis.

WHO WASTES THE WEALTH WE PRODUCE?

A two-page article in COSATU's Living Wage Campaign issue asks the pressing question: "Who wastes the wealth we produce?" Some 12 million workers produce all the wealth of South Africa, the article explains—many working up to 12 hours a day under extremely-dangerous conditions. "We have sweated and toiled. And for what? Poverty wages, retrenchments and unemployment, slum housing and gutter education... apartheid, repression, and mass suffering...."

"If we, who created all the wealth, have nothing, who has the wealth that we and our parents produced? It is the small handful of owners of the factories, mines, and farms.... A mere 1360 families own and control 80% of this country's wealth... not even 0.1% of the population!"

The article goes on to explain that through mergers and buyouts, South Africa's seven largest companies are continually strengthening their dominant position in the nation's economy. A sidebar contends that "Workers Can Manage": "Imagine what we could do if just the Big Seven Companies were managed according to workers' needs and not bosses' profits.... We would work for ourselves and the future. We know it would not be easy... [but] we would see how much we needed and where it was needed most. We would produce these things as our most important tasks. We would share among ourselves all the work. And we would share among ourselves the fruits of all our work."

"We would not all be rich. No-one would be rich. We would not all be poor. No-one would be poor. We would be constantly working together to improve the quality of life."

OPEN THE BOOKS!

COSATU is also challenging employers to open their books: "We want to see how every cent we made you has been spent. We don't just want to see financial statements—we want to see all your receipts and all your checkbooks and all your financial papers. We need to know about these things so we can see how much you are robbing us." COSATU notes that without this information, employers will continue to insist that they cannot afford to pay workers a living wage.

The union is pursuing a unique method to determine what should be considered a living wage. Rather than turning to economists or Government experts to determine what is needed, COSATU has prepared a comprehensive questionnaire that details what workers need for a whole range of expenditures (from rent to entertainment), so that workers can decide for themselves what constitutes a living wage.

NEEDED: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

South Africa's workers are engaged in the fight of their lives. If they are to win, they need active, material solidarity from workers around the World. Despite the recent release of several hundred detainees, hundreds of union activists remain in detention. Police are cracking down on union meetings, offices, and picket lines. Only the attention of the World—and the threat of international retaliation—prevents the Government from conducting an all-out assault against our South African fellow workers.

While campaigns such as the international boycott against Shell Oil—active in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the US—can play an important role (especially given Shell's position as the only major oil company still operating in South Africa, providing the regime's military and police forces with fuel), what is especially needed is workers' direct action in solidarity with South African workers' struggles.

Also needed is material assistance. COSATU suffered nearly a million dollars in damages when its headquarters was blown up in early May—including the complete destruction of a newly-purchased printing press. The union has been forced to rent alternate quarters at substantial expense. And given the desperate economic situation of most South African workers, financial assistance for strikes is urgently needed. Perhaps your union local could make a contribution to help COSATU recover from the recent Government attacks. Donations can be sent to COSATU, PO Box 1019, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa.

JB

Northeast Wobs To Gather

The New York General Membership Branch of the IWW invites all Wobblies and their families and friends to the Third Annual Northeast IWW Regional Weekend Outing August 14th through 16th at the Wobble-In.

The Wobble-In is located in Central New York State about 70 miles west of Albany and 30 miles south of the NYS Thruway. It is 70 acres of woodland sitting off a country road with ample space to pitch a tent, an outdoor group eating and gathering spot, and a mobile trailer with indoor plumbing and shower.

Wobblies from different cities and states will have the chance to meet and network with each other in an informal setting around union issues. There will also be time to explore the local area, which includes dairy farms, the Baseball Hall of Fame seven miles away in Cooperstown, the Farmers' Museum, and the home of James Fenimore Cooper. Nearby Otsego Lake offers lake tours, swimming, and freshwater fishing. The New York Branch will provide all meals for the weekend.

For detailed travel instructions and to let the Branch know you plan to attend, write to Wobble-In Outing, PO Box 172, Fly Creek, New York 13337, or call 607-293-6489.

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-----Farmworkers Forge Forward-----

This is a year of great activity in the agricultural sector of the US labor movement. The immigrant law may change the composition of the farmworkers labor force and the difficulty of organizing, but not nearly as much as the first press reports suggested. No one is sure exactly how many farmworkers are in the US, but there must be several million. Many are Mexican nationals on whose immigrant labor, with or without documentation, US growers are heavily dependent.

The conditions facing agricultural labor—sub-minimum wages, child labor, barracks housing, mass exposure to chemicals, migrancy, lack of citizenship or civil rights—resemble those of other American industries of a century ago. There are many causes for this, including the exemption of farmworkers from almost every federal and state labor law on the books. But in response to this, almost everywhere in the US there are unions or associations of fruit, vegetable, packing, nursery, and mushroom workers. Here's a rundown on some of the most important:

UNITED FARMWORKERS

The United Farmworkers in California was founded by Filipino workers in the early 1960s. Under the leadership of Cesar Chavez it gained union contracts, labor-reform laws, and wide publicity for the "cause". Today the UFW numbers some 30,000 dues-paying members, mostly Chicanos, and is active to a lesser extent in Florida, Texas, and the Northwest. It has a large support organization that works with churches and community groups in most major cities to build support for its boycotts and other activities. The UFW is in the midst of a massive grape boycott designed to pressure growers to negotiate new contracts, reduce pesticide use, and respect California labor law, which is almost completely ignored by the current governor.

THE SOUTHWEST

The Arizona Farmworkers' Union numbers more than 10,000 members and has held some major contracts despite the most anti-union farm legislation in the US. But the AFW's most-remarkable achievement may be south of the border. In six states of Mexico AFW members have organized co-operatives producing honey, agricultural implements, guitars, fish, furniture, peaches, lettuce, and other products. The AFW contracts stipulate a deduction from each worker's wages to be used for such projects in the workers' hometowns. These projects, known as Co-operatives Without Borders (Sin Fronteras), are based in Queretaro, northwest of Mexico City. Union members apply the same solidarity and fight that built their unions to improving their hometowns and working toward the day when no one will have to migrate to survive—or to improve his or her life.

The AFW has sent organizers to New Mexico and other parts of the Southwest. For some years the Texas Farm Workers flourished as a combative group that bravely fought powerful and violent growers and local "law" enforcers equipped with helicopters and guns. The TFW dissolved in the early 1980s, but out of it came the Industrial and Agricultural Workers Union, currently headed by Jesus Moya. The IAWU includes nearly 3,000 Mexican workers and is known for its successful strikes and distaste for compromise.

Another important successor to the TFW is the Border Workers Union (UTAF), about 10,000 strong, whose main office is in El Paso. The UTAF, under president Carlos Marentes, is active on both sides of the border, organizing actions and educational programs in Mexico, New Mexico, and Texas.

THE WEST COAST

In the Pacific Northwest, a number of small groups show promise. One of the fastest-growing is the Union of Pine Planters and Peasants of the Northwest (PCUN), which includes hundreds of US Government employees who work for slightly more than the minimum wage, planting seedlings in national forests. The PCUN has members in both Oregon and Washington.

Woodburn, Oregon is the chief center of the Benito Juarez Association (ACBJ), composed of Mixtec Native Americans. The Association has members in both Upper and Lower California and in the Mixtecs' home state of Oaxaca. It is one of the first manifestations of the Mexican Indian movement among immigrants to the US. The Mixtecs, leaving Mexico's poorest areas, frequently speak only their native language. Their internal cohesion gives them a solidarity lacking in most other organizations.

Another West Coast association, the ACLC, composed of workers from the state of Michoacan, is named after Lazaro Cardenas, a Michoacan who was president of Mexico from 1934 to 1940 and who expropriated American oil interests, re-legalized the Catholic Church, and gave great impetus to the co-operative movement. The ACLC has helped encourage the United Farmworkers to spend more time organizing recent arrivals outside its Chicano base.

THE EAST COAST

In Florida, growers select workers from as many different countries as possible to keep them competing with each other instead of uniting against the bosses. In addition to Chicanos, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans, there are

many thousands of Caribbean, Central and South American, and US black workers in the citrus, sugar-cane, and vegetable fields of Florida. More-traditional union organizing has had a very hard time in the face of governmental sweetheart contracts and ethnic antagonisms. But recently a new approach by two organizations has met with impressive success.

The Central Florida Farmworkers' Association and Sanctuario in Southern Florida have a lot in common. Both were at first assisted by religious groups (Catholic and Quaker), but have consciously separated themselves so as to avoid domination by the Good Liberal. Both have organized co-operatives, as have UFW graduates in California, where families have banded together and borrowed money for seeds and tools to successfully raise beans, okra, squash, and other produce in competition with large private and corporate growers. In addition,

New Jersey, winning the first farm-union contract in the East. An election at the 300-employee Grasso Packing in Swedesboro is the union's next major test. CATA is also beginning to organize an agricultural co-op in specialty products.

In Puerto Rico, the 10,000-member Union of Workers of the South is the largest of a number of farm unions which, like most Puerto Rican unions, are not affiliated with US unions. This particular union, headed by Chepo Carraballo, son of the founder, has come into competition for the allegiance of can cutters with a number of small militant unions including the General Agricultural and Industrial Workers Union (UGTAI), whose president, Luis Rodriguez, is also active in CATA.

THE MIDWEST

The Midwestern Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), under the leadership of Baldemar Velasquez, has conducted campaigns against Campbell, Heinz, and Libby, including strikes and boycotts. In 1986 Campbell worked out a three-way agreement with the unions and the growers' association that resulted in representation elections being held at dozens of Ohio farms. The union won over a third of these elections, and the remainder were contested. A more-favorable contract agreement was conceded by Heinz at its cucumber and pickle operations in Michigan and Ohio in 1987.


FLOC also sends organizers to Florida and Texas in co-operation with the UFW, though these efforts have not yet resulted in union contracts. Like the UFW, with which it has voted to merge, FLOC has a large network in the churches and labor communities.

Some of its local organizations depend almost exclusively on members' dues; others receive church, labor, or foundation support. Some work closely with AFL-CIO unions or are part of a federation like the UFW; others are more closely tied to independent Mexican labor. Each has had its leadership squabbles and growing pains.

The organizing situation for each of these groups will be somewhat worsened by the new "H-2A" program. The new immigration law, aside from its legalization provisions, makes it easy for any grower who claims a shortage of agricultural workers to contract as many as he wants to work only for him. The new law also applies to other industries, and hospitals and nursing homes in New York and New Jersey are already importing cheap labor from abroad and denying them organizing and protective rights. It's a threat to us all, as agriculture is still the nation's most-basic industry.

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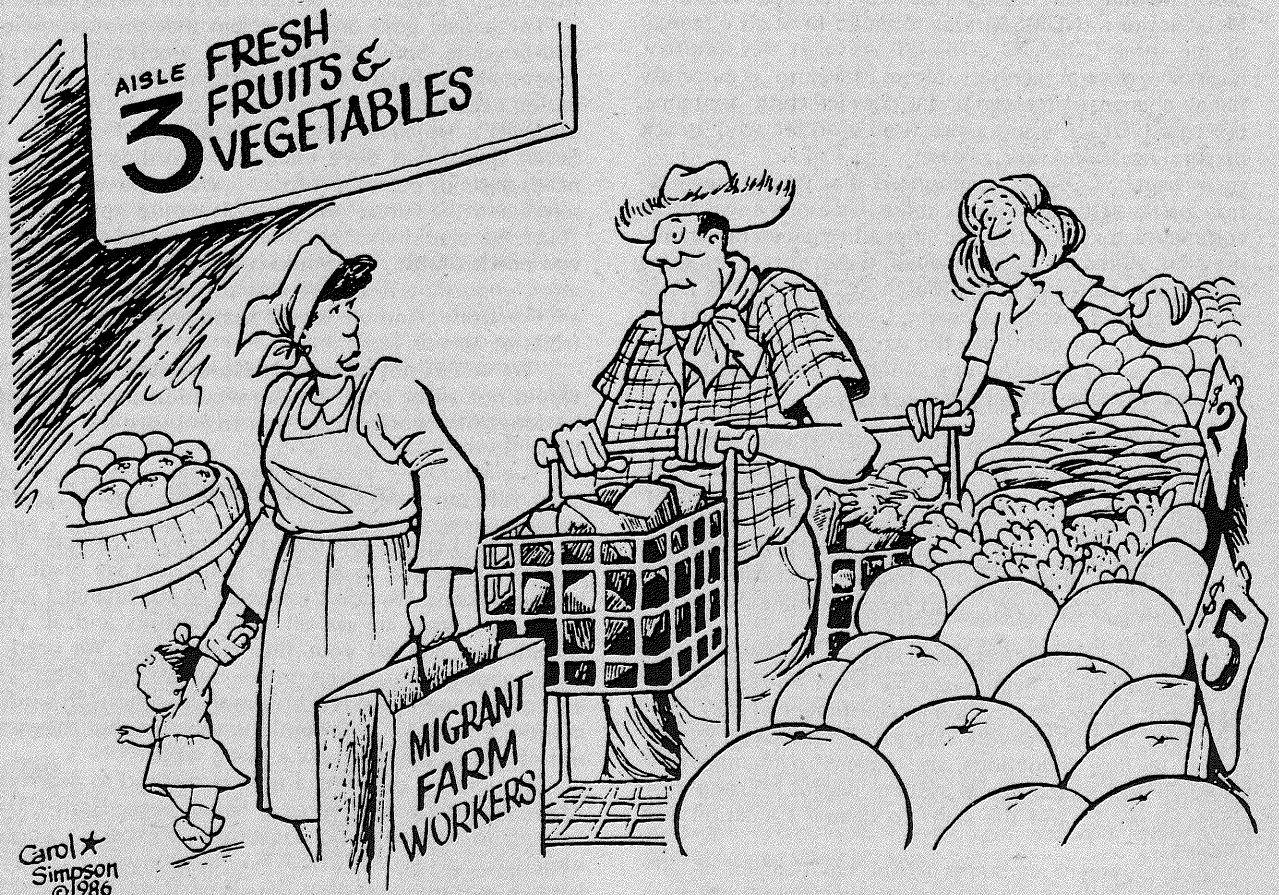
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both groups have organized co-operative crews of different ethnic groups who own their own tools and, by eliminating the hated and exploitive middleman (the crew leader) and charging higher prices for better work, have achieved more-just working conditions from the apple orchards of Pennsylvania to the citrus groves of Indian River. Sanctuario's president, Bart Colon, has had wide success organizing new members by running mass meetings on the new immigration law.

In New Jersey, Puerto Rican farmworkers formed first ATA and then CATA to help fight a sub-minimum wage law and support hundreds of their brothers locked out of New York apple farms. Since then CATA has grown to over 2,000 workers in New Jersey and Puerto Rico, and a smaller number of Mexicans in the Pennsylvania mushroom industry. In 1986 CATA, led by its president Angel Dominguez, formed the farm labor union COTA. The first mushroom-farm representation election was a tie, but in 1986 COTA won unanimous recognition at the Levin and Molinelli farms in Cumberland County,

AND YOU THOUGHT THE DAYS OF JOB BUYING WERE OVER...

As a result of a so-called "competitiveness" contract containing pay-cut and wage-freeze concessions granted by members of IBEW Local 1453, Zenith Electronics will return 200 workers exported to Mexico in 1985 to Springfield, Missouri and will drop plans to transfer a plastics plant to Mexico. The wage cuts will apply also to management. It's a real international auction, as workers in different countries try to underbid one another.



"I don't know why you're going this way—
You know we can't afford anything in this aisle!"

NBC WORKERS STRIKE

On June 29th, 2800 members of the National Association of Broadcast Employees employed by the National Broadcasting Corporation went on strike, with job security as the key issue. Under the old contract, which expired April 1st, a union member contracted as a "daily hire" was guaranteed two weeks of work, even if it was only for a five-day job. Under the NBC proposal, the network would be able to employ daily hires for the length of the job only.

Although the NBC would limit the number of daily hires to 6% of the staff, Arthur Kent, president of the New York branch of the union, believes that the NBC's proposal is the thin edge of the wedge, and that the company's actual purpose is to replace full-time union workers with daily hires, thereby saving the company health and other benefits.

An NBC spokesperson has denied that the company's corporate parent, General Electric, is behind a new and tougher company line, but added that the company has been training a contingency scab force of 700 people since January.

As with the writers' strikes against ABC and CBS earlier this year, the willingness of other network unions, such as the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, to walk through picket lines makes it impossible for any one union to shut down the broadcasting system. In an act of solidarity, however, 15 ABC employees refused to cross the NBC strikers' picket lines July 6th in Los Angeles, thereby holding up the filming of "General Hospital" for about an hour.

CAPITAL CITIES/ABC TO TEST JOB APPLICANTS FOR DRUG USE

In mid-July, Capital Cities/ABC informed its employees that candidates for full-time jobs will henceforth be screened for drug use before being hired. The policy will first be put into effect at the 21 radio stations and 8 TV stations the company owns, and will later be introduced at the rest of the company's outlets. Current employees will not have to undergo drug testing.

In 1986, when Capital Cities was merging with ABC, management considered a plan to send a team of drug-sniffing dogs through its Kansas City, Missouri newspapers, but that plan was abandoned. The memorandum outlining the new drug-testing policy noted that a drug-rehabilitation program instituted by Capital Cities/ABC has been used by 400 employees and their families.

The network executives declared: "If an applicant fails the test, he or she will be considered unsuitable for employment by any unit of the company for a period of six months." Which suggests that the company will keep records of job seekers who fail the test. One wonders how confidential those records will be.

Norman Siegel, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, which has fought all drug testing in the workplace, pointed out that subjecting job applicants to drug testing is "even more unfair" than testing current employees, because the employer has no track record to measure any alleged impairment due to drug abuse.

In June, the American Medical Association issued the opinion that employees should be tested for drug abuse only if there is reasonable suspicion of impaired job performance. Also in June the New York Court of Appeals ruled that it is unconstitutional to force public-school teachers to submit to drug tests without a "reasonable suspicion" of drug use.

Even though drug testing of employees and job applicants has drawn both legal and medical criticism (to say nothing of labor-union criticism) it is becoming increasingly prevalent in recent years. In 1983 only 3% of the nation's largest companies had drug-testing programs, but that number is expected to grow to 50% by the end of this year. One wonders why the sudden enthusiasm for drug testing, even of employees who are under no reasonable suspicion of drug use, unless this is simply another way of browbeating the workforce and branding refuseniks as potential troublemakers.

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THIRD IBM WORKERS INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY MEETING

The third IBM Workers International Solidarity (IWIS) meeting was held last April in New Orleans, with 15 IBM rank-and-file union delegates from France, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, and the US in attendance. (IBM abruptly canceled the vacations of two Swedish delegates just days before the meeting.)

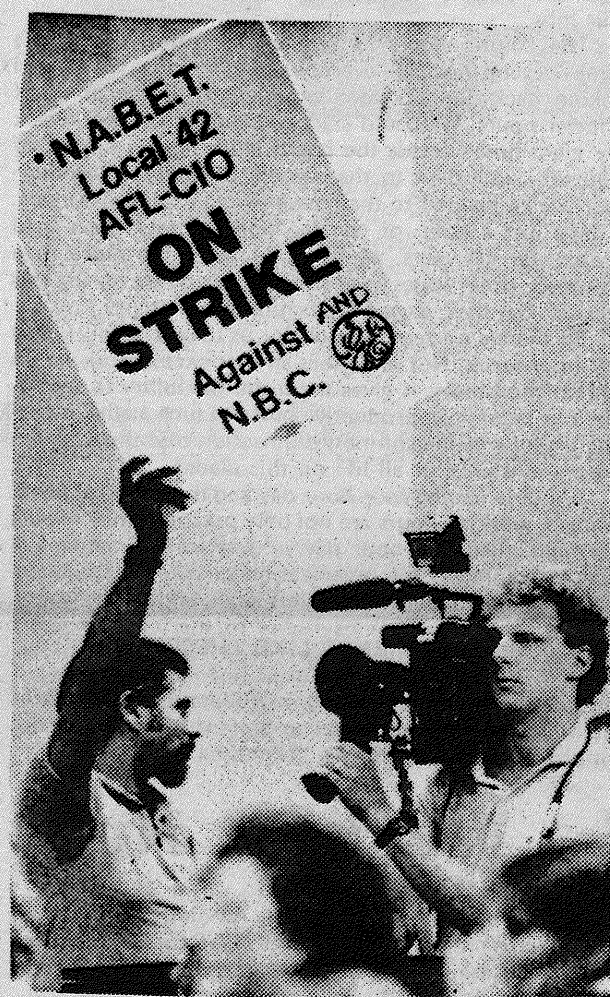
The delegates reported on employment levels, salaries, and working conditions in their respective countries, noting that IBM is subcontracting more work and trying in other ways to reduce full-time employment, and that IBM unions are losing membership and active members are facing increased discrimination and harassment. Because of the rapid changes being made within the company, delegates resolved to try to hold IWIS meetings every year. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 1988 in Italy.

For a copy of the joint statement released by the IBM delegates or for more information about IWIS, contact Lee Conrad, IBM Workers United, PO Box 634, Johnson City, New York 13790.

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DIRECTORS SETTLE

The Directors Guild of America reached a tentative agreement with movie and TV producers July 14th—aborting the first strike in the union's history only five minutes before the picket lines went up. In anticipation of a strike, the Hollywood studios put extra movies into production this spring and quickened the pace of production to beat the date of the contract expiration. The TV networks also took precautions, making early commitments to series they planned to renew for the '87-'88 season and rushing production on the shows. That the directors' union did not take the routine precaution of refusing overtime to prevent the bosses from stockpiling shows that they either were not serious about striking or—this being their first strike in the industry's 51-year history—didn't know how to go about it.



A striking NBC engineer holds a picket sign near a scab camera operator who was recording a meeting of Democratic Presidential candidates in Cleveland on July 19th. While the candidates initially refused to cross the NBC picket line at the Convention Center, they did so after a judge restricted the picketers to a side entrance and gave the scab camera operator press credentials.

POSTAL WORKERS REACH WAGE AGREEMENT

On July 21st, the two largest unions representing US postal workers, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers, reached a tentative contract settlement with the US Postal Service that provides raises between \$1700 and \$1866 over the next 40 months. The union contracts expired July 20th, but the 50,000 affected workers remained on the job while talks continued, as postal strikes are illegal and had no agreement been reached strikers would have faced mandatory arbitration. The workers will vote on ratification early in August.

Moe Biller of the American Postal Workers said the agreement would result in wage increases totaling about 7% for most workers up to November 20th, 1990. The current annual pay for postal clerks and letter carriers ranges from \$20,094 to \$20,087. The Postal Service was forced to drop its demand for more so-called "casual workers": part-time employees who get lower pay and benefits.

A week before, the 50,000-strong Mail Handlers Union signed a three-year contract with a 1.6% annual raise. A fourth postal union, the 76,000-member National Rural Letter Carriers Union, has a three-year contract with the Postal Service that expires in January.

Note that the 1988 raise in first-class postage from 22¢ to 25¢ is going to be blamed on the workers' wage hikes.

JOB GUARANTEES SOUGHT

After peaking in 1979 at 21 million, the number of jobs in basic manufacturing has declined by about two million. During the same period, the United Auto Workers union has seen its membership drop from a little over a million to about 370,000.

Amid fierce competition, de-regulation, and technological change (plus an opportunistic sense of having their employees on the run), companies with no-layoff policies—like Eastman Kodak, Polaroid, and Procter & Gamble—have modified or abandoned that commitment. In the face of boss abandonment of worker employment security even as fiction, several unions have made it their Number 1 goal.

In May the UAW persuaded Case International Harvester, the nation's second-largest manufacturer of farm and construction equipment, to grant seemingly-important job guarantees. The Tenneco subsidiary not only agreed to give 3500 UAW members blanket job security until 1990, but also promised to fill most vacancies created by attrition. The largest farm-equipment maker, Deere and Company, agreed this year to maintain at least 90% of the UAW jobs in its plants. Caterpillar Incorporated made similar promises in a contract signed last year.

Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell agreed last fall not to lay off any of their 67,000 workers during the three-year life of a contract with the Communications Workers of America. But the companies, which are units of Pacific Telesis, can trim their workforce if there is a severe economic turndown. The National Steel Corporation had previously made a similar deal with the United Steelworkers.

In virtually all instances, the unions are granting steep concessions to obtain employment security. In its agreement with Case IH, for instance, the UAW gave up a general wage increase. The union also granted management a much-greater say in how and when union members perform their jobs. Besides reducing the number of job classifications, the union gave management much more power over such areas as scheduling.

The results of past union attempts to obtain job or income security are not encouraging. In the 1960s and '70s the United Steelworkers tried to make it too expensive for companies to lay off masses of workers by negotiating supplemental unemployment payments. But as employment in basic steel dropped from 700,000 in 1978 to the current 140,000, steel companies have been filing for bankruptcy, and their pension obligations have mainly been assumed by the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Several unions, most notably the Communications Workers of America, have focused on retraining. Under their agreement with the CWA, Pacific and Nevada Bell have offered transfers and training to people whose jobs were being eliminated at one location, and buyouts of up to 40 weeks' pay to others. At AT&T last summer, the CWA won a company-financed program to provide technical training for workers facing layoffs. But it does not guarantee employment. "We are training people for jobs elsewhere," said Don Treinen, a former CWA official who is co-executive director of the program.

In the early 1980s, the UAW persuaded Ford and General Motors to pay workers displaced by technology or work transfers, and to set up training centers to teach new skills. Because car and truck sales have been strong since the last contract was negotiated in 1984, the Ford and GM job-security provisions have been only lightly tested. A total of 11,400 employees have spent time at GM's job bank for surplus workers, and 624 at Ford's. Still, that is due to change, and the jobs the workers are retraining for may not necessarily be more secure than the ones they lost.

A more-ambitious program established by the 1984 contract has gone nowhere: a union-management effort at both companies to find new businesses to hire laid-off auto workers. Neither company has spent a penny of the millions of dollars pledged for the new ventures. Because the agreement does not permit the new jobs to compete with existing UAW-represented work, it has been hard to find projects in other industries that can use auto workers' skills.

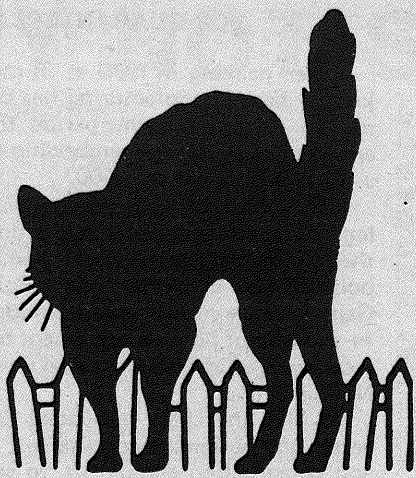
One is faced with the grim conclusion that the concessions unions have made for job security have been less successful than they hoped. This is not surprising, however, since the whole idea of job security assumes that workers have a common interest with management, which in fact they do not.

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BLACKS SETTLE BIAS SUIT AGAINST RAILROAD

After 15 years of what one of the employees' lawyers called "a war of attrition", eight black railroad workers have won an out-of-court settlement in their class-action suit charging the Long Island Railroad and 14 of its unions with discrimination against blacks in hiring and promotions. In the settlement, the railroad agreed to a financial package of \$1.4 million to be divided among a thousand present and former black employees. In addition, the railroad is to spend an estimated \$3 million for training programs and to create a career-opportunity center—a place where all employees can seek transfers to better-paying jobs. If the LIRR restricts the number of training slots in the largest of these programs, it must make at least 50% available to the blacks covered in the class-action portion of the suit over the next four years.

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A few years back, when I used to make deliveries on one of the poshest business streets in town, one could already see people scrounging in garbage cans for scraps of food. The bulk of these scroungers were what is euphemistically referred to as Senior Citizens, as inflation had naturally raised hell with their rockin'-chair checks and whatever savings they had. Most of these folks probably had some hole in the wall that ate up their meager resources, but at least they had a place to get in out of the rain.

It is said that the passage of time changes everything, and indeed it has over the half-dozen years that have elapsed since the time referred to. For today it is no longer just Senior Citizens who are scrounging for scraps of food, but their ranks have been swelled by a host of healthy young people of both sexes. (The word healthy is used rather euphemistically here, as the appearance of many of these young scroungers implies anything but.)

When you see people carrying or wearing a heavy coat or jacket on these hot summer days, it's because they have no place to leave it. And it's not only downtown on the posh shopping strips that these folks can be found. Anywhere you go, you will see the homeless. The wastebaskets on the posh strips are still being carefully culled, but the competition is intense.

For those seeking a handout, the chances seem better in the humbler neighborhoods. It's a well-known fact that most of those who can afford to frequent posh emporia have not attained that level of upward mobility via the milk of human kindness. If you're looking for generosity, you're more likely to find it among those whose economic circumstances are not too divergent from your own.

For many years now there have been people who tour neighborhood alleys looking for aluminum cans in garbage receptacles, because a day's diligent quest could net a modest sum of change. But today they are far outnumbered by those who scrounge for leftover scraps of food.

It has become a very familiar sight to see park and bus-stop benches occupied by homeless people with all their worldly possessions on their backs or in shopping bags. The officious police don't even bother them anymore, as their ranks have not stopped swelling.

When this is pointed out to one's more-comfortable fellow humans, they shrug it off with the remark that all of these homeless have either mental or emotional problems. I would not try to contradict their assertions, as I have to admit that sleeping outside in all kinds of weather and not knowing where one's next meal is coming from cannot be very conducive to one's mental or emotional stability. But why is it that the proliferation of "mentally or emotionally disturbed" homeless people always seems to accompany a worsening economic situation?

Those of you who have read the IWW Preamble—printed in each issue of this valiant little rag—might be interested to know that some of the more-conventional unions that existed long before the IWW was founded had preambles that sounded pretty much like ours. But over the years they have deleted the parts about the working class and the employing class having nothing in common, and about the struggle that must continue till the working class is victorious, ushering in a classless society.

For every gain made by workers over the years, a much-bigger gain was made by their employers. Long ago the conventional unions signed contracts stating that decisions concerning what was produced and how much were strictly the prerogative of the employer, and not that of the union. Quite a far cry from the class-struggle clauses that were found in the old union preambles!

What is left of the union movement in Freedomland and in most of the rest of the World is being driven back to ground zero. I remember years back when I was a steward at a neighborhood sweatshop, before that sweatshop was converted into a high-rent condominium. (The apartment where I used to live, a stone's throw from this former sweatshop, is now renting for \$1700 a month.) I would tell the company representatives that we are getting ready to enter a new era, and they are still trying to push us back into the last one.

Unfortunately, it looks like they're pretty-well succeeding. But every cloud has its silver lining. Even a mouse will rear up and bare its teeth when backed up against a wall. And those fat cats are still outnumbered by us meek little mice.

There's so few of them and so many of us!

C. C. Redcloud

In Our Opinion

RIPPED OFF

Two years ago it took four hours for the workers at Goodyear Tire and Rubber's Lawton, Oklahoma plant to retool the computerized machines that assemble tires to prepare for production of a different size. Now it takes only three hours. The plant's 1800 workers now turn out 25% more than they did two years ago, but receive the same wages and work the same hours.

The *New York Times* reports that "For the first time since World War II, substantial US productivity increases are not reflected in higher wages for workers. Financial gains are going into corporate profits.... Hourly compensation of American manufacturing workers, adjusted for inflation, rose an average of only eight-tenths of 1% annually from 1981 through 1986. It declined in the year ended last March.... During the same period, the productivity of the nation's factories rose a respectable 4% annually."

This, of course, amounts to wholesale theft of our labor. But employers want more—much more.

"Until we get real wage levels down much closer to those of the Brazils and Koreas," says Stanley Mihelick, Goodyear's executive vice-president for production, "we cannot pass along productivity gains...."

In the last five years, US workers, on average, have increased productivity by some 20%. What we've gotten in return are worker concessions, layoffs, and plant closings. We're quite literally working ourselves right out of our jobs.

The solution to this problem is quite simple. It's time—several decades overdue, in fact—that we started taking back our increased productivity in the form of shorter hours. We could start by slashing the workweek by eight hours across the board (with no cut in pay, of course)—equivalent to the amount of increased production we've handed to the bosses in just the last five years. That's just a start, of course. Working hours have held steady for 40 years, while productivity has more than doubled. (Real wages have gone up somewhat during this period, but have lagged far behind productivity.)

So there's no reason at all for us to still be working a 40-hour week. Not only does all that excess work we do enrich the bosses, it gives them the flexibility to squander our labor in unproductive pursuits such as the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction that threaten the future existence of all life on this planet.

It's time for the four-hour day and the four-day week. Shorter working hours are not only practical, they're ours by right. The four-hour day is ours for the taking—all that's required is the organization to take it. The alternative is unemployment, useless labor, and falling wages.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE ...

Steelworkers President Lynn Williams crossed Writers Guild picket lines April 2nd to present his vision of unionism on ABC Television's "Nightline".

La Workers Need Organization

After six years of the Reagan Administration's anti-Labor government (aren't they all?), US corporate profits are skyrocketing while the American working class sinks deeper and deeper into economic misery.

One of the regions hardest hit by Capital's war on Labor is Louisiana, which has the highest rate of unemployment in the US.

Louisiana is one of the major petroleum-producing states, and its economy is dominated by the petrochemical industry. A few years ago, when OPEC lowered the price on a barrel of oil, US energy corporations began to purchase cheaper foreign oil over more-expensive domestic oil. That sent the economies of the oil-producing states into a downward plunge, and the situation has continued to grow worse.

The statewide unemployment of Louisiana is now at 13.5% (over 20% in some parishes). Since the oil slump began, nearly 25,000 jobs have been lost in the petrochemical industry, and over 7,000 in manufacturing. Most other industries also are showing record numbers of lost jobs.

Due to the high unemployment, underemployment has become a major problem, along with bad working conditions for those who are still employed. Since so many people are out of work and searching for jobs, many employers have used the economic situation to

Williams began by discussing the need for "new strategies", referring to the "very important victory, not simply for our people at USX, but... for the labor movement generally". "Nightline" host Ted Koppel was understandably taken aback, noting that 10 years ago any labor leader trying to sell a contract like the United Steel settlement as a victory "would probably have been ridden out of town on a rail". (And justly so.)

Williams did note that "Nobody knows how to run these factories and develop a productive society better than the workers do." But he didn't cross the news-writers' picket lines to urge that workers take control of industry. No, Brother Williams was there to preach the gospel of labor-management co-operation, pointing to Japanese industry (and labor relations) as an example of what is needed.

Labor-management co-operation (aided by the Government and banks), Williams argued, is the way to increase labor productivity. Of course, management is all for increasing productivity—because that enables them to slash payrolls. Brother Williams argued that this could most-humanely be done through attrition. (The management consultant who shared the bill favored massive layoffs.)

Rather than concern ourselves with raising the bosses' profits through increased productivity, workers would do far better to rid ourselves of such "friends of labor". Then we could get on with our real business: taking control of industry and administering it in our own interests.

VANISHING POINT

In 1973, union members made up 25.6% of all US workers employed in private, non-agricultural industry. By 1985, the most-recent year for which figures are available, that had dropped to 14.1%—and all indications are that the proportion of workers in unions is continuing to fall. In agriculture, unions represent an even-smaller percentage of the workforce, though growing numbers of government workers do belong to unions.

It's easy to point to ostensible causes for this alarming decline in union strength—plant closings, union busters, the NLRB, concessions. But the real cause lies elsewhere.

A 1984 survey found that only 32.4% of non-union workers wanted union representation. What that means is that the business unions have done such a lousy job—at organizing, at defending workers' interests, at promoting a vision of what unionism is all about—that they have convinced over two-thirds of our fellow workers that unionism's for the birds.

The way the business unions have been operating for the last decade, it's no surprise that our fellow workers have given up on them. With the business unions in a headlong rush into oblivion, the question facing rebel workers is whether to try a salvage operation or to build something new—revolutionary unions controlled by the rank and file and committed to taking control of industry. Are you with us?

further exploit and intimidate the workforce. Longer hours, pay cuts, and concessions have become part of the state's economic environment.

Louisiana has always had a passive working class, and that hasn't changed. To aggravate matters, the AFL-CIO has been even more impotent than usual and has failed to support any of the strikes that have taken place in the last few years. The AFL-CIO hasn't once raised its voice in honest protest, and god forbid that the "great labor federation" should call for a statewide general strike. In the face of the greatest economic upheaval in Louisiana since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the AFL-CIO has done nothing.

As for the local politicians, far from helping alleviate the plight of the working class, they have done just the opposite. Being the prostitutes they are, the morons in Baton Rouge are fully owned and operated by Capital. And to show where their true allegiance lies, they've been busy passing a host of anti-Labor laws.

While the political farce rambles on, the economic situation has taken a heavy toll on society. Not only is the rate of unemployment high, but the crime rate has reached unprecedented levels. There is a mass migration out of Louisiana as record numbers seek work in other areas of the country.

On top of this, a general sense of despair hangs over the working class. There is no light at the end of the tunnel for the Louisiana proletariat, and only the most-foolish workers still cling to the illusion that the situation is going to improve in the near future.

Right now the workers of Louisiana are caught up in the struggle for mere survival. Whether they will organize as a class to fight for improvements in their desperate circumstances remains to be seen.

Ben E. Trant



JOIN THE UNION
OF YOUR CLASS

Hormel Pays 5 Million for a Bloody Nose

If the purpose of Hormel's Fourth of July extravaganza was to convince America that the strike was over and everything is sweetness and light in Austin, Minnesota, they failed miserably. Pete Winkels of P-9 said it best: "There is one guy cleaning out his desk at Hormel on July 7th. That is the guy who dreamed up this disaster." It is rumored that Hormel spent five million dollars on this project. They can't afford to pay the meatcutters decent wages or provide medical insurance for their families, but they can throw a five-million-dollar birthday party for what Jim Guyette calls "a can of dead pig meat".

Hormel did bring the media to Austin and entice a few people to town, enabling the strikers to send the message across the US that the strike is not over and the boycott of Hormel products is alive and growing. They also sent the message that "Spam" (spiced ham) should be spelled "Spat" (spiced fat). Spam is 78% fat and is high in sodium, nitrates, and calories. The *Boston Globe* recently suggested that Spam should carry a disclaimer saying "not recommended for any healthy diet".

Hormel put out a graphic for this Spam orgy showing four Marines raising a flag on Iwo Jima; only the flag did not bear the stars and stripes, but instead carried a picture of a Spam can. Many of the locals were very offended by this. I saw it as a very-honest statement by corporate America, exposing how it really views this country and our role as workers.

Hormel tried every trick in the book to rid the streets of the workers' "Cram Your Spam" T-shirts for the weekend. Rumors were rampant that scabs with ball bats would be roaming the streets to "take care of" any strikers who dared show themselves. Was it Carnegie who said when asked about unions: "I can hire half the working class to kill the other half"? Police were called in from surrounding counties, and police dogs were brought in. Rumor had it that the National Guard was on alert and Federal marshals were in the area. Strikers' tires were slashed in broad daylight; one striker had three of his horses poisoned; and nails were spread on the road to Tent City (where P-9 supporters were camped). Every local paper predicted violence in Austin, but none of

them mentioned the provocative violence against the strikers. The company and the police (if I must separate the terms) had video cameras everywhere to intimidate strikers who are still on the "recall" list.



As part of the opposition to the Spam celebration in Austin, Minnesota during the July 4th weekend, Gloria and John Weis filled their yard with 850 crosses to represent the 850 P-9 union meatpackers fired during the recent strike against Spam's manufacturer, Hormel. Mr. Weiss worked for Hormel 40 years before retiring July 2nd. About 640 unionists are still jobless.

On Friday, July 3rd, Hormel forced its employees to buy "Spam" T-shirts and wear them to work. On Saturday all workers got paid if they punched in wearing Spam T-shirts and attended the Spam parade. Some people sell out very cheap.

But the P-9 strikers were not intimidated—at least not those who understand their situation. There were "Cram Your Spam" T-shirts and stickers all over town and at every Hormel function. The City denied the P-9 strikers a parade permit, so they made their own floats and created their own route. When that route passed the home of Hormel president Richard Knowlton and the strikers broke into "Solidarity Forever", the police panicked and called a Code Red! But by the time they responded we were down on Main Street.

Instead of violence, Austin got "Wobbled". The strikers were in a festive mood and were more interested in having fun at Hormel's expense. There was a great deal of singing and laughing at the demonstrations, and much of it was initiated by Wobbly musicians Harry Muir of Minneapolis and Mark Ross of Missoula, Montana. Hormel even provided special effects for our evening songfest on the Fourth. Larry Long of Minneapolis, Muir and Ross, and Scott Seskind of Boulder, Colorado were leading us in a round of "Solidarity Forever" when Hormel's fireworks began going off over our heads. This, of course, only encouraged us to sing louder and longer. We were told that every word could be heard clear as a bell by the crowd that had gathered for the fireworks. Thank-you cards can be sent to Richard Knowlton, c/o George Hormel and Company, PO Box 800, Austin, Minnesota 55912.

Charles Nyberg, Hormel spokesman and general counsel, said "Everything is over. All we have to do now is clean up the afterbirth." Right on, Chuck. Let's clean it up again on Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. We can use the media coverage.

Boycott Hormel!

Gary Cox

Sound of a Distant Drum

Age has few rewards, and no one wants to bear witness to the death of dreams. Yet to have lived through two world wars and the misery of the 1930s, and to have acted out one's part as the distant spectator of the hope and agony of a mighty people's revolution floundering into a middle-class paternalistic bureaucracy, gives one the right to brood in the gloom of the Nag's Head pub. Here in these small, royal, and sceptered islands, Ma Thatcher ambles through the doors of power like a political Mae West followed by her convoy of right-wing cabinet phrase-floggers, with the sweet knowledge that she has five years of uninterrupted political power in which to plant her silk-stockinged knee in the private parts of the British Left as it shambles around in disarray pleading to know what hit it. And Neil Kinnock, as Britain's lonely loser, has once more proved the obvious: that no matter how much the one or the many may crawl for support to an established middle class on the road to political power, that old right wing will always in the final analysis apply simple logic and whistle for its own right-wing Praetorian guard to protect its interests, and never for the Fred Karno army of the pseudo Left. So Britain's mass working-class Labour Party is doomed to play the role it loves so well as Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition.

The great tomb of London's County Hall across the river from the Houses of Parliament, which for years was the seat of London's town government, has been empty and up for grabs by any property speculator since Ma Thatcher shouted "copper" and the drear London Labour Party carpetbagging residents ran whimpering out of every exit. And the British unions fear to strike industrially, literally, and literarily, for Ma Thatcher has unconsciously read her Machiavelli and within days of taking office proceeded to push through an assortment of laws aimed at the destruction of the organized British working class. For as Mac has written, first things first: Destroy your enemies real or fancied immediately on gaining power. So many of her laws are not only revenge but mean and bitter, like the one that will deprive unemployed youngsters of their 30-dollar-a-week welfare payment unless they agree to conform and enroll at the Government's pseudo "training" centers.

Only Arthur Scargill stands firm, and win or lose one must respect him. Britain's coal barons are demanding that starting with the newly-planned Margam "superpit" the miners must return not to the five-and-a-half-day week but to a six-day week, and once the coal barons win at Margam they will insist that the six-day week be made the norm in every mining area; for Sir Robert Haslam of British Coal has sent every miner in Britain a four-page letter stating that the six-day workweek will have to apply wherever the coal barons decide. (And from the mines to the factories, comrade?) That the leadership of the scab Union of Democratic Miners are willing to accept the six-day workweek, and are already prowling around the mining industrial fringe like pampered jackals ready and willing to sign a sweetheart contract with

the local barons, is now being used as a threat to the men of Scargill's NUM. And in an area of mass unemployment where 800 jobs are on the line, one dare not try to advise or prophesy—not when one is typing in one's nightshirt at three in the afternoon with a pint of beer at one's musewise elbow and always conscious of the fact that there are no coal mines left in London, but only clay and bursting water mains.

There are strikes such as the ineffectual teachers' protest actions that one has long ago lost any interest in. But there is one strike that demands support, and it is that of Britain's clerical Welfare staff. For the wages of many of these workers amount to less than the checks they have to make out. With a loaf of bread at 60¢ and a pint of beer at \$1, one can make a slight comparison. But take out taxes, rent, transportation, and the like, and one must cry for justice. For the weekly wage of thousands of these workers is only about \$24 a week more than I pick up as the State plus (private) industrial weekly pension that is deemed enough for me, as a dribbling geriatric, to exist just below the official poverty line. So the clerks strike and the people on Welfare go without their checks, and Ma Thatcher and her cronies could not care less.

Arthur Moyse, London

Day of Resistance

At the moment (June 24th) this old Wob is very wobbly indeed on a pair of crutches. But I run a little ahead of my story.

It has appeared to me that peace activists have jumped the gun (pardon the unfortunate expression) when they courted arrest too soon. Civil disobedience is the ultimate tactic, the trump card you play in fighting the military establishment. After all, how much farther can you go than jail? It so happens that cd, for whatever reason (arousal of public conscience, startle response, sheer confusion of authorities in dealing with huge numbers of essentially law-abiding citizens), has produced dramatic results (India: Ghandi; American South: King and Freedom Riders). But there is a proper instinct for these matters. Slanting to one side or the other (too early or too late), as so many innovators and imitators do, never produces revolutionary results. After the critical point has passed, the social significance of the act diminishes. And the element of timeliness explains why cd worked so well in the South during the early '60s and really not at all in Los Angeles.

But I had signed the Pledge of Resistance. I'd promised to lay my body on the line at the grim moment when American blood was spilled in Central America. And that moment had come!

I was one of about 75 people to be charged with illegally entering Federal property June 15th at the

Nevada test site. Stall incoming traffic in a mile-long line! Impede the military operation! Throw a monkey wrench into the works! Dramatize the issue!

I stretched out in front of a bus conveying workers to the facility where hell bombs are tested. When officers swooped down on me, I went limp. It took two cops to haul me to my feet. My non-co-operation stopped just short of resisting arrest. Handcuffed, I was carted off with a busload of other protesters. Our citations were not signed by arresting officers. No worry about court appearances. The Law had learned early on that it was inconvenient and expensive to process hundreds of protesters. In a sense, too many protests too soon had turned our action into a non-action. Publicity, however, we got. "A real professional radical!" affirmed my admiring fellow demonstrators.

Then, the project over, I stumbled ingloriously into a pothole in rough desert terrain and fractured my metatarsal. Sentence: six weeks on crutches! Six weeks' house arrest for stepping in a pothole!

Dorice McDaniels

IMPORTANCE: If all the plumbers and garbage collectors in the country walked out for a week, people would notice. But if the members of the National Security Council didn't meet for a week, or a month, or ever again, who'd care?

Preserve the future.



GIVE to the sustaining fund!

WHY NOT SIT DOWN?

BOOK REVIEW

What Is a Sit-Down Strike? A Workers' Democracy pamphlet, WD Press, PO Box 24115, Saint Louis, Missouri 63130. Single copies free (send a stamped self-addressed envelope). \$1 for three copies, \$3 for ten, \$5 for twenty, \$10 for fifty.

This excellent pamphlet is more than a compact and readable history of the sit-down strikes. Critically assessing the successes and failures of the famous tactic that defined the high point of workers' direct action in the 1930s, it also explores the reasons for the rarity of sit-downs (by the labor movement, at least) in later years, and sensibly concludes that sitting down would do the workers' movement a world of good today.

The '30s sit-down wave was indeed an impressive and revolutionary interlude in the long march of the American working class. When General Motors signed its first contract with the newly-formed United Auto Workers in 1937, some 50,000 workers had just been on strike *inside* the plants they worked at. In March of that year there were sixty sitdowns in Chicago alone. Far better than any picket line or boycott, sit-downs demonstrated the real power of working men and women when they stand—or sit—together. With humor aplenty, they also exposed the utter superfluity of bosses, and of union bureaucrats as well. Nearly half a million workers in the US made history by simply sitting down, and the whole World sat up and took notice.

The cover of this pamphlet reproduces an old Wobbly cartoon captioned "Lock out the boss: It makes more sense!", and the role of the IWW in the development of the sit-down is properly emphasized in the text. It is mentioned, for example, that Lucy Parsons and Daniel

DeLeon had proposed such a tactic in the union's earliest days, and that the first recorded sit-down—at General Electric in Schenectady (1906)—was led by the one-year-old IWW. A two-page sketch of the great Hormel Strike of 1933, led by longtime IWW organizer Frank Ellis, illuminates a dramatic struggle that is part of the living heritage of our brave fellow workers still holding the fort in P-9.

The high-salaried thumb-twiddlers of the AFL-CIO, whose job it is to keep the lid on the official labor movement, are as much to blame as the Government for the sad fact that workers haven't been sitting down in recent years. And yet, as this pamphlet points out, "the idea of sit-downs never died.... Beginning in the late 1950s, civil-rights marchers remembered the old labor tactic when they held sit-ins against racism at lunch counters throughout the South. During the height of US attacks on Vietnam in the late 1960s, hundreds of thousands of students sat in at administration offices to protest their complicity with militarism. By the late 1970s, hardly a month went by without a sit-in to call attention to the destructive effects of nuclear power or other ecological catastrophes." In the 1980s, bizarrely enough, the workplace may be "the only place of importance where Americans fail to sit in or sit down to protest the actions of big business."

This pamphlet is a good step toward getting the labor movement back on the track. Copies should be in the hands of millions. All Wobblies should read it and get several more to give to their fellow workers, friends, the folks back home, and even a passing stranger or two.

Sooner or later the workers will decide that they've stood enough, and sit down to change the world. Speed the day!

Franklin Rosemont

What is Violence?

Wearing a T-shirt bearing the words "Justice is a constant struggle", David Gillam Kerley, a 26-year-old law student at the University of Wisconsin, departed for Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in July to begin a three-year term for refusing to register for the military draft. Kerley, who owns a bookstore in Madison, is also regional director of the Committee Against Registration and the Draft. At his sentencing (Kerley's prison term and 10,000-dollar fine were the harshest penalties to be handed down for the 18 cases chosen for prosecution under a now-abandoned Justice Department policy), Judge Shabaz criticized him for "aiding and abetting" registration resisters and refused his request to remain free on bail while awaiting an appeal. Kerley, whose appeal has been filed, said he had refused to sign up for the draft because registration would make it easier for the US to send troops abroad.

When President Carter re-instituted draft registration in 1980, the Justice Department, in trying to prevent mass protests, embarked on a policy of prosecuting only those non-registrants who actively identified themselves as draft resisters. Defendants had asserted that the policy

WOBBLY ART MAKES THE ROUNDS

Following its appearance at the Strike Center in Austin, Minnesota during the anti-Spam rally of July 3rd through 5th, the exhibit of Wobbly art put together a couple years back by FW Carlos Cortez headed out to Denver via FW Gary Cox. From July 17th through August 5th, the exhibit was shown in Denver's Grant Street Art Center along with prints by Colorado Lawyers for the Arts.

TEACHERS' UNION BACKS BIRTH CONTROL

At its Fourth of July annual convention, the National Education Association, the largest teachers' union in the US, endorsed the distribution of contraceptives to students at school health clinics in an effort to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy. The delegates to the 8,000-member union convention also called anew for comprehensive AIDS education courses, including information about "abstinence and medically-accepted protective devices".

STRIKE OR MUTINY?

On July 10th, the 17 Korean crew members of a Liberian-registered oil tanker, the *Gogo Regent*, arrived in New York from Saudi Arabia. For the first time in weeks they were able to call home and did so, only to discover that their wages for the last three months had not been sent home to their families, as required by their contract. They promptly ceased work.

The shipowners claimed that the fault lay with the South Korean employment concern that had recruited the crew. The captain claimed that the action was not a strike but a mutiny, and barred the crew from the ship's food stores. Volunteers from the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and the New England Seamen's Mission have been taking food out to the ship for the crew, who refuse to leave the vessel lest they be accused of deserting.

On July 14th the ship was seized by federal marshals, who stationed a marshal on board and forbade the Scandinavian officers to move the ship without court permission.

was unconstitutional, and the Department dropped it in 1984 after it was challenged; but the Supreme Court upheld the policy in 1985, ruling that it did not amount to selective prosecution or an infringement on free speech. "Those prosecuted," maintained Justice Powell, now being touted as a liberal as his replacement is being chosen, "in effect selected themselves for prosecution by refusing to register after being reported and warned by the Government."

"Some of these young men are trying to make a political statement by saying 'Ronald Reagan isn't going to send me to the Middle East or to Central America,'" said Wilfred Ebel, the departing director of the Selective Service System. "I don't know why they look at it as a political issue. It's not. It's a national-security issue." Ebel said draft registration would shorten by six weeks the time it would take to mobilize conscripts for military training.

Besides facing possible prosecution, those who fail to register are barred from receiving federal student aid and job-training assistance—not that that's much of a threat, as both kinds of assistance have been cut back to a fraction of what they were at their none-too-generous best.

Prison sentences are a "helpful part of public awareness" of the obligation to register, said Ebel. "For those violently opposed to registration, it probably won't change their minds."

Announcing the IWW Oral History Project

Eager to devise more effective means by which the lessons of IWW history can be passed on to younger fellow workers continuing the struggle today, several of us have started an IWW Oral History Project.

It is our aim to arrange systematic interviews with all the old-timers in our union, as well as with some former members and, in a few cases, deceased members' relatives who may have important information.

In addition, we urge old-timers to send us written reminiscences of their lives, and especially of their involvement in the IWW. A voluminous literature on Wobbly history exists, but major gaps remain. In particular we need to know more about IWW activity from the mid-1920s through the loss of the Cleveland shops in 1950.

We would also welcome photographs, correspondence, old dues-books, buttons and other memorabilia pertaining to the history of our Union.

As we proceed, pertinent excerpts from interviews will be published in the *Industrial Worker*. Eventually we hope that a full-length book—a collective autobiography of the IWW—will result from this effort.

We would like to hear from any fellow workers and friends interested in helping with this project.

Dave Roediger X334539

Franklin Rosemont X322339

Sal Salerno X321089

Send correspondence to Oral History Project, c/o IWW, 3435 N. Sheffield, Rm. 202, Chicago 60657.



Farewell Fellow Workers

JOSEPH MURPHY (1905-1987)

The son of a co-founder of Gene Debs's American Railway Union, Joe Murphy was proud of the fact that he was born "the same day and the same year the IWW filed its papers of incorporation"—November 7th, 1905 in San Francisco. He lined up in the IWW's Agricultural Workers' Industrial Union in June 1919, and took out job delegate's credentials three months later.

Those were eventful days for the One Big Union, and Fellow Worker Murphy played an important role in those events. When American Legion thugs attacked the IWW Hall in Centralia, Washington and murdered Wesley Everest and others on November 11th, 1919, 18-year-old Joe Murphy was one of a hundred or so footloose Wobblies who hopped freights there to help their embattled fellow workers. For this expression of support for his class and his union he received 30 days in the local lockup. He later recalled this period as "a very emotional part of my life" that made him "hate the employing class more than ever".

Murphy also took part in that Wobbly May Day in Tacoma in 1923 when the "bindlestiffs" burned their blankets in a great bonfire, signaling a bright and unforgettable moment in the migratory wage slaves' struggle for self-emancipation.

During the IWW's calamitous split of 1924, Murphy was among the stalwarts who tried to hold the competing factions together and did their best to rebuild the union after the damage was done. Even in later years, when he was no longer active in this organization, he continued to defend IWW aims and principles. Many other unions enjoyed his considerable talents as an organizer, and he was especially active in the building-trades unions until he was blacklisted in the 1950s. His own impressive account of his life as a labor radical can be found in the oral-history book *Solidarity Forever*.

Fellow Worker Murphy died May 18th in Santa Rosa, California. He spent his whole life fighting the good fight for his class. He will not be forgotten.

FR

FRANK MEAD

Fellow Worker Frank Mead died June 9th in Long Beach, California. He retired from the railroad where he had worked many years as a switchman in the Chicago yards, tried his hand at writing comedy for radio and television, and traveled now and then to Brighton, England, where his wife came from, or to Belfast or Dublin. Frank was a part of the Chicago literary scene in the days of the Dill Pickle Club, a staunch admirer of Jack and Jimmy Sheridan, and a good friend of Jack Conroy.

NONE GENUINE WITHOUT THIS SIGNATURE
Industrial Workers of the World

Readers' Soapbox

ARDBRIDE DISPUTE

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the sacked Ardbride strikers, I write to thank you all for your active support and loyalty to us during these last months. I myself can't thank all of you enough for the stand you have taken on our behalf.

Now I have to inform you that our picket line has been reduced to three: two girls and myself. Laura Ashley Ltd has beaten the picket line and the sacked strikers by continuing to buy Ardbride products and sending their drivers through the picket lines, showing how much they support employers like Stewart Ross.

After nine months of constant abuse from Ross and his scab workforce our girls have had enough, and I can't say I blame them. Though they haven't had two pennies to rub together, they turned down Ross's offer of 2,000 pounds each to end this dispute.

They have now given up, but I'm proud of them and count myself lucky to have been involved in this struggle for workers' rights. We may have lost the fight, but Ross couldn't buy our principles. We did not sell out, nor did we let T&GWU sell us out.

Yours in Solidarity,

Anna Druggen
Ardbride Strike Committee



DIRECTORY

of IWW Branches & Delegates

United States

ALASKA. Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. ★ Barry Roderick, Delegate, Box 748, Douglas 99824.

CALIFORNIA. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco, 94140. ★ Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609. 415-658-0293. ★ San Diego IWW Group, PO Box 16989, San Diego 92116. ★ General Defense Committee (Arthur J. Miller, Sec'y), PO Box 2576, San Diego 92112.

FLORIDA. Fred Hansen, Delegate, Box 824, New Port Richey, 33552.

GEORGIA. Delegate, 4310 E. Conway Drive, Atlanta 30327.

ILLINOIS. Chicago General Membership Branch (Fred Lee, Sec'y), 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago 60657. 312-549-5045. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 1 pm. ★ Chicago General Defense Committee Local 2 (same address as Chicago Branch). ★ Champaign-Urbana IWW Group (Jeff Stein, Delegate), Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

KENTUCKY. Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 37581.

LOUISIANA. Shreveport IWW Group, PO Box 37581, Shreveport 71133.

MARYLAND. Baltimore IWW Group, PO Box 33528, Baltimore 21218.

MASSACHUSETTS. Boston General Membership Branch, Box 454, Cambridge 02139. ★ Western Massachusetts IWW Group, 35 Curtis Terrace, Pittsfield 01201.

MICHIGAN. Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197. 313-483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. ★ University Cellar I.U. 660 Job Branch, 425 South Summit, Ypsilanti, 48197. ★ People's Warehouse I.U. 660 Job Branch, c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. ★ Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506. ★ Delegate, 1101 Cottage Row, Hancock 49930.

MINNESOTA. Minneapolis-St. Paul General Membership Branch (Nancy A. Collins, Delegate), PO Box 2245, St. Paul 55102. Meetings third Wednesday of each month.

MONTANA. Western Montana General Membership Branch Hall, 415 North Higgins, Room 104, Missoula. Open Monday through Saturday, 12-5. 800-443-5458 or 406-721-3000. A. L. Nurse, Delegate. Address all correspondence to IWW Branch, PO Box 8562, Missoula 59807.

NEW YORK. New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York 10028. ★ Rochelle Semel, Delegate, PO Box 172, Fly Creek 13337. 607-293-6489 or 212-662-8801. ★ Jackie Panish, Delegate, PO Box 3304, Church Street Station, New York 10008-3304. 212-868-1121. ★ John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn 11218. ★ Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207. 716-877-6073. ★ Robert Young, Delegate, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. ★ Joe O'Shea, Delegate, Winkler's Farm, Towner's Road, Carmel 10512.

OHIO. Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee, PO Box 26381, Dayton 45426.

OREGON. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 2226 Fairmount Boulevard, Eugene 97403.

PENNSYLVANIA. Tom Hill, Delegate, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA. Harbinger Publications I.U. 450 Job Branch, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201. 803-254-9398.

TEXAS. Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087. 713-921-0877.

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WISCONSIN. Madison General Membership Branch, 1846 Jenifer, Madison 53704. 608-251-1937 or 249-4287.

Australia

Delegate, 417 King Street (1st Floor), Newton, Sydney.

Canada

Vancouver General Membership Branch, PO Box 65635, Station F, Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5K5. ★ West Kootenay IWW Group, Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5. ★ J. B. McAndrew, Delegate, 7216 Mary Avenue (1204), Burnaby V5E 3K5.

Great Britain

Delegate, 13 Wolsey Street off Heslington Road, York, YO 5BQ, England.

Guam

Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, Box 864, Agana 96910.

WOBBLY T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

The San Francisco GMB is selling red Wobbly T-shirts with a black logo and "Industrial Workers of the World" on them. They have some small, some medium, and lots of large and extra large. They're asking \$10 plus postage.

Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON! THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.

WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.

THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF, THUS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.

INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."

IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.



DONATIONS TO THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER SUSTAINING FUND

(Received April 14th Through July 11th)

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Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.

BOOKS

FOR UNION PEOPLE

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- ☐ One Big Union (about the IWW) 1.25
- ☐ The General Strike (by Ralph Chaplin) 2.50
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- ☐ A Quiz on You and the Arms Race 10
- ☐ The IWW: Its First Seventy Years (cloth) 15.00
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- ☐ Joe Hill: IWW Songwriter 1.00
- ☐ History of the IWW in Canada 50
- ☐ The Rebel Girl (sheet music) 1.00
- ☐ We Have Fed You All for a Thousand Years (LP record—no discount). 8.50
- ☐ IWW Preamble and Constitution 1.00

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- ☐ Lucy Parsons ☐ Joe Hill ☐ General Strike ☐ Fat Cat
- ☐ Huelga General ☐ Draftees of the World, Unite

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40% discount on prepaid bulk orders of five or more copies of any item on this list, unless otherwise indicated. 30% discount on similar orders that require invoicing. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

AVAILABLE FROM IWW LOCALS

- ☐ A Worker's Guide to Direct Action. 50¢ from New York IWW, P.O. Box 183, NY 10028.
- ☐ Fellow Union Member. 10¢ each; 5-15 for 5¢ each; 16-500, 3¢ each; over 500, 2¢ from Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 S. Sheridan, Tacoma, WA 98405.
- ☐ Introduction to the IWW. 10¢ each; bulk rate 40%, prepaid, from San Francisco IWW, P.O. Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
- ☐ Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication) \$10 a year from Vancouver IWW, P.O. Box 34334, Station D., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6J 4P3.
- ☐ IWW baseball caps (one size fits all) \$4 each plus \$1 each for shipping from General Headquarters, Chicago, or from University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch (checks payable to IWW), 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197.
- ☐ Amnesty for British Miners (enamel and gold buttons) \$10 each from Chicago IWW Branch, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, IL 60657. (All proceeds to British miners.)

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Labor News Briefs

NEW JERSEY TEACHERS NOT JAILED FOR STRIKING

In early July, the New Jersey Superior Court canceled the jail terms of 97 teachers and other school workers who staged an illegal strike last spring in Lyndhurst, New Jersey.

All of the sentences—three days each for teachers and two days each for secretaries, social workers, and other staff aides—had been imposed by Judge Huot after the defendants admitted violating his back-to-work order at the start of the six-day strike March 27th. The school workers went on strike after 18 months of unsuccessful negotiations with the Lyndhurst Board of Education. They were seeking higher pay and defied Judge Huot's order.

During his sentencing of the Lyndhurst teachers, the Judge claimed that their defiance of his back-to-work order had corrupted the students and inspired disrespect for the law and contempt for the courts. ("... We have people calling themselves educators who, by their conduct, instruct the young people in their charge that anarchy is superior to constitutional government.")

The new penalty requires the teachers to provide three hours of additional instruction for each hour they refused to work in defiance of the Judge's order. The other workers, who refused to cross the teachers' picket lines, must provide two hours of extra work for each hour of defiance.

Well, radical educational reformers have been comparing schools with jails for some time now. Perhaps the teachers could use their court-ordered instruction time to talk about the goals and methods of the IWW.

CONVICT WINS EMPLOYEE STATUS

Douglas Plumley, serving 12 years for bank robbery at the Lompoc, California federal prison, was dismissed from his prison job as clerk in a furniture workshop in February 1986 after writing a letter complaining of exposure to hazardous fumes. His first letter was seized by prison officials; his second letter got to the Government Accountability Project, a Washington-based legal center. In June '87 he won a settlement from the US Bureau of Prisons of \$2,046 in back pay, restored credit for 83 days of good-behavior time toward possible early parole that had been taken from him as part of his punishment, and transfer to a lower-security prison nearer his family.

The Government Accountability lawyers described the settlement as helping to establish the precedent that federal prisoners assigned to low-wage penal jobs are "employees" for the purpose of environmental-protection laws, a victory for both environmental protection and prisoner rights. The lawyers suggested that the Government decided to settle so as to avoid having to proceed with hearings at Lompoc prison in which issues of workplace conditions and prison discipline would have been aired before a Labor Department administrative-law judge. Under federal law, the Labor Department is required to rule on workers' charges that their environmental or safety complaints have prompted employer reprisals.

The Bureau of Prisons and the Justice Department lawyers declared that if federal convicts, required to perform low-wage work, were held to be "employees", this would invite thousands of prisoner requests for outside intervention against routine penal discipline. The Department maintained that this "would lay the foundation for mass disobedience".

FACTS FROM THE TRUE NORTH

The Vanishing Poor?

For many years the media have kept up a constant barrage to the effect that the gross inequalities of class have vanished from North America. The capitalism of today no longer forces workers to seek poorer quarters to live. No longer must they worry about their next meal. Post-World War II capitalism (be it Keynesian or complete laissez faire) is providing for the basic needs of all regardless of personal income.

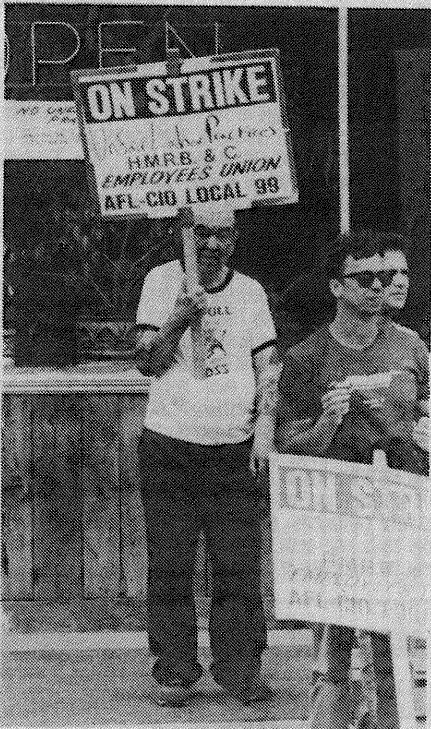
The reality, however, is that inequality remains. One 1981 study examined the difference between the haves and have-nots in Canada. It reported that 165,000 Canadian adults were considered the top 1% of wealth holders with a combined "net worth" of \$1,463,661,000. So these people had an "average wealth" of \$887,000.

The situation was quite different, however, for the bottom 40% of Canadian adults (about 6,612,000). The average wealth of these people was a mere \$1,002.

And woe to those who are forced onto Welfare. The maximum allowable Welfare benefits offered to unemployed workers in the province of Ontario who have run out of unemployment compensation is \$395 a month. Enough to live on? Well, according to the Toronto Union of Unemployed Workers, it costs roughly \$300 a month to rent a room in their city, leaving \$95 a month for food, clothing, and transportation. That works out to about \$20 a week for the basic necessities of survival.

They say that present-day capitalism is the society of abundance. What they forgot to mention is that this means abundance for the few.

Len Wallace



Minnesota Wob Patrick McMillen (left) walks a Duluth picket line in support of restaurant workers striking for union recognition.

Around Our Union

MINNESOTA WOBBS SUPPORT DULUTH RESTAURANT STRIKE

FW Patrick McMillen (92), joined briefly by Nancy Collins and Greg McDaniels, has been participating daily in the Duluth, Minnesota picket line in support of 12 restaurant workers who walked out April 9th demanding union recognition. The cooks had been receiving \$3.75 an hour after a year's work, less than half union scale. One worker's hours were drastically reduced when the owner learned she was pregnant, and when she requested maternity leave he took this as a resignation.

When the owner offered some employees a wage increase, Local 99 of the Hotel, Motel, and Restaurant Workers Union filed an unfair-labor-practice charge with the NLRB. As of July 1st, FW McMillen is still taking a daily walk to the picket line in support of these workers.

CALL FOR COPY

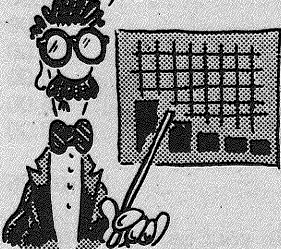
FW Lee Cornelison is putting together an anthology of Wobbly poetry. If you are or have been a member, and have some poems lying around in a desk drawer that you haven't tried to get published because they're "too radical" or "too angry", send them to Oke Doke Press, c/o Lee Cornelison, PO Box 290, Snoqualmie, Washington 98065.

CALIFORNIA LABOR BOARD VERSUS UFW

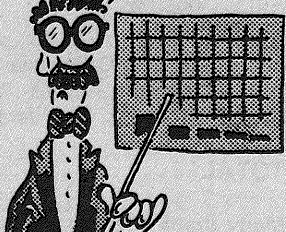
Twelve years after it was created amid strikes, boycotts, and struggle in the lettuce fields and table-grape vineyards of California, the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board has itself become the target of a boycott. As California Governor Deukmejian has replaced Board members with appointees who felt it had been too favorable to the United Farmworkers Union, the number of farmworker complaints dismissed has doubled to about 80%. As a result, the UFW has all but ceased filing charges of unfair labor practices against growers. Former Board members have argued that the Board as now constituted is incapable of enforcing the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act, intended to protect the right of farmworkers to organize, and ought to be abolished.

The laws do not enforce themselves; labor-relations boards, whether state or national, can change their orientation markedly when the political winds shift. The spectacle of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act becoming a dead letter 12 years after it was enacted means that farmworkers' right to organize will have to be maintained as it was originally won: with strikes, boycotts, and struggle in the fields.

...THE U.S. CUTS WAGES
TO COMPETE WITH JAPAN,
WHO CUTS WAGES TO COMPETE
WITH KOREA, AND SO ON AND
SO FORTH...



...UNTIL WORKERS EVERYWHERE
EARN NEXT TO NOTHING
AND CAN'T AFFORD TO BUY
THE PRODUCTS
PRODUCED...



Did You Notice?

YES, BUT WE'RE NOT DEAD! The preamble to the Wobbly constitution was featured in an editorial in the May issue of the newsletter of AFSCME Local 312. The editorial denounced the "jointness" trend in labor/management get-togethers as an attempt to "break down the adversarial relationship", and reminded the readers (employees of the Detroit Department of Transportation) that no matter how much "Family/Team" propaganda the bosses put out, they have not forgotten their adversarial relationship with us. The editorial then reprinted the IWW preamble as an example of a "turn of the century" revolutionary labor movement.

FLOC SUMMER CAMPAIGN: This summer the Farm Labor Organizing Committee can administer its Vlasic (Michigan) and Heinz cucumber contracts as well as work to sign up non-contract farms. The Ohio Vlasic growers, however, have hired union-busting consultants from California, many of whom have led de-certification drives against the United Farm Workers. Meanwhile, Campbell Soup—a buyer of tomatoes and other Midwest farm produce—has unilaterally dropped its price for tomatoes \$8 a ton, in violation of its 1985 agreement with the Dunlop Commission; is dragging its heels on renewing the hospitalization policy for its pickers; and is trying to weasel out of funding day-care centers for farmworkers' children. No boycott has yet been called.

ADDITIONS TO AFL-CIO BOYCOTT LIST: The AFL-CIO is asking people to boycott products made by McCleary Tire and Rubber Company and by the US Playing Card Company. In March 1986, when 200 members of the Rubber Workers' union refused to bow to McCleary demands for a two-year wage freeze and other major benefit concessions, the company locked them out even though they offered to keep working while a new contract was negotiated. McCleary has since brought in scabs to try to resume operations in its Pennsylvania plant. In a similar case, the US Playing Card Company locked out members of the retail, wholesale, and department-store union last November after the unionists refused concession demands.

ARKANSAS MINIMUM-WAGE HIKE (such as it is): The Arkansas state legislature has voted to boost the state minimum wage to \$3.25 an hour in January 1988 and to \$3.30 in January 1989. The decision was affected by the increase of firms that have five or more employees and report an annual gross dollar volume of business under \$365,000.

MALE HIGH-SCHOOL DROPOUTS earned an average income of \$19,120 in 1984. That same year, female college graduates averaged \$20,257, while male college graduates averaged \$31,487.

PROGRESS: The last time the US Congress declared war was in 1941. Since then military operations have had a variety of names: "police actions" in Korea, "military advisors" in Vietnam, "peacekeeping" in Lebanon, "covert action" in Central America. In Grenada, the US Government didn't even bother to give what it did a name.

LIES, DAMN LIES AND STATISTICS: The air-travel industry is fond of pointing to the fact that US airlines enjoyed one of their safest years in 1986, a turnaround from a 1985 accident toll that was one of their worst. But the crash last August in which a DC-9 jet and a small private plane collided over a Los Angeles suburb, killing 82 people, is not included in tabulations of US disasters because the airliner was Mexican: a detail that most specialists—and passengers—find irrelevant. This year's seemingly-good record has its dark underside too. While annual collision figures have stayed in the mid-20s for years, most incidents have involved two small planes, often in remote areas without air-traffic control. At least three collisions this year have involved a large plane that was under the guidance of controllers. These accidents, coupled with the 1986 Los Angeles incident, may explain the results of a poll of airline pilots in which they rated the danger of collision as their top safety concern.

REFLAGGING: The US is going to "reflag" oil tankers belonging to Kuwait. This is a boon to Kuwait, which now gets the US Navy for its very own, and to Scrabble players, who can now make "reflag", "reflags", "reflagging", and "reflagged".

SOLIDARITY: College sexual-harassment cases are a clear example of potential conflicts between feminists and unionists. Demographics mean that the unions will by and large be protecting the claims of male professors against the claims of female students.

VIBES: Have you ever noticed the strange feeling that goes across the factory floor when the supervisor is paged? ("Manpower is holding for you on Line 1.")

ADAM SMITH: "The understandings of the greater part of men are necessarily formed by their ordinary employments. The man whose life is spent in performing a few simple operations... has no occasion to exert his understanding.... He generally becomes as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to become."

KARL MARX: "It would be possible to write a history of the inventions, made since 1830, for the sole purpose of supplying capital with weapons against the revolts of the working class."

WILLIAM BLAKE: "Prisons are built with stone of the Law, brothels with bricks of Religion."

STATISTICS: People with a strong stomach for dismal statistics may want to look over the article "A Surge in Inequality" in the May issue of *Scientific American*. Of course, you have to supply your own politics.